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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/043,925	10/23/2001	Manfred Boldy	DE920000041US1	9258

26502 7590 08/28/2003

IBM CORPORATION
IPLAW IQ0A/40-3
1701 NORTH STREET
ENDICOTT, NY 13760

EXAMINER

OMGBA, ESSAMA

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3726

DATE MAILED: 08/28/2003

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/043,925

Applicant(s)

BOLDY, MANFRED

Examiner

Essama Omgba

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 23 October 2001 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

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DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) because reference character "22" has been used to designate both the "safety hook" and the "metal grounding" in figures 3A and 3C. A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

4. Claim 1 recites the limitations "the end of a cable" and "the shell" in lines 2 and 5 respectively. There is insufficient antecedent basis for these limitations in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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6. Claims 1 and 3-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) in view of Thompson et al. (US Patent 5,489,275).

With regards to claim 1, Applicant, at pages 1 and 2 of the specification to be known as AAPA, discloses a cable mounted to a connector with ends of the cable marked for identification purpose. AAPA does not disclose a strain relief clamp with a transparent portion through which a marking of interest is visible when the strain relief clamp is installed on the connector. However Thompson et al. teaches a movable component slidably mounted on a connector cable, the component including a transparent portion through which a marking of interest is visible, see column 1, lines 42-48. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to have provided the strain relief clamp of AAPA with a transparent portion, in light of the teachings of Thompson et al., in order to more accurately identify cables. Applicant should note that the provision of strain relief clamp on the connector is conventional in the art.

For claims 3-6, see column 1, lines 48-53, column 2, lines 23-28 and figures 1, 5, 8, 11, 14 and 15. Applicant should note that it is within the general knowledge of one of ordinary skill in the art to provide appropriate shape transparent portions on the clamp.

For claim 7, Applicant, at pages 1 and 2 of the specification to be known as AAPA, discloses a method for identifying a cable that has identification markings on its end section wherein cable ends are marked for identification and mounted to connectors. AAPA does not disclose a strain relief clamp with a transparent portion

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through which a marking of interest is visible when the strain relief clamp is installed on the connector. However Thompson et al. teaches a movable component slidably mounted on a connector cable, the component including a transparent portion through which a marking of interest is visible, see column 1, lines 42-48. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to have provided the strain relief clamp of AAPA with a transparent portion, in light of the teachings of Thompson et al., in order to more accurately identify cables. Applicant should note that the installation of the strain relief clamp on the connector is conventional in the art and that it is within the general knowledge of one of ordinary skill in the art to appropriately mount a strain relief clamp with a transparent window on a cable and connector such that markings of interest are visible through the window.

7. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA/Thompson et al. as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Beier et al. (US Patent 6,367,897).

AAPA/Thompson et al. discloses a strain relief clamp as shown above except for the strain relief clamp including an antikink protective sleeve. However it is known to provide antikink sleeves to connectors as attested by Beier et al., see column 4, lines 22-25 and figure 1. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to have provided the strain relief clamp of AAPA/Thompson et al. with an antikink protective sleeve, in light of the teachings of Beier et al., in order to prevent buckling of the cable.

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Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Essama Omgba whose telephone number is (703) 305-2915. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (10-7:30) First Friday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Greg Vidovich can be reached on (703) 308-1513. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1148.

eo 
August 22, 2003

